

WIGHT FESTIVAL MAY LAST UNTIL MONDAY

GOOD NEWS this week for pop fans not able to reach the Isle of Wight before Friday evening or Saturday morning—the festival may go on until Bank Holiday Monday.

Says Festival pressman Peter Harrigan: "There is a possibility that it will be extended until Monday. Partly so that surprise artists or groups not able to appear on the five nights planned, can play; and partly to avoid a full-scale rush on returning ferries."

On Monday 30,000 people had already pitched camp on the Freshwater Bay site and an estimated 150,000 should be there for the Sunday concerts. At presstime 75,000 tickets had been sold.

Reports that the site had turned into a quagmire because of recent rain were denied by Harrigan. "The site is on sand and water drains away very quickly."

Festival, which was scheduled to open last night (Wednesday) with America's Kris Kristofferson and Britain's Judas Jump, will be using the "biggest and best amplification system in the world."

Says Harrigan: "The speakers are capable of reaching a 20-mile radius at full power, but will be kept to half power."

Harrigan urges everyone to bring a tent or some form of protection against the weather. "The long-term forecast is good, but fans should not take chances. While we have ordered several more marquees there will not be accommodation for everyone."

Festival will run from mid-day to midnight on the three main days and is not expected to overrun.

MOODY BLUES are now back in the festival on the Sunday night line-up. Says Ray Thomas: "Our decision to withdraw was never a question of billing. We were put under pressure by people acting on behalf of the organisers for which we have now received an apology. We were most concerned that the only people to lose out of this dispute would have been the fans."

CHICAGO, due to arrive yesterday (Wednesday) for their Friday Isle of Wight concert, plan to record their performance "live," possibly for a new LP.

But plans to film the spot for a TV special have been dropped. Manager Larry Fitzgerald is this week finalising details of Chicago's European concert tour, set for last week in November and first two in December. Tour will include two London dates, and three provincial cities.

● Disc staff are covering the entire festival. Whether you are going or not—don't miss our report next week.

DISC

NEWS

edited by
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Bread, Fotheringay, Incredible String Band, and Fairport Convention are all set for British concert tours this autumn. And the two final dates for the Four Tops tour are fixed.

BREAD, in the chart for the first time at No. 22 with "Make It With You," rush-release their second LP, "On The Waters," next week. The album was originally set for October release to tie in with the group's British concert debut, but has been brought forward because of the success of the single.

Bread's tour, set to take place between October 1 and 10, is now being fixed. Provisional dates arranged are: Dunstable California Ballroom (October 1), London Central Polytechnic (2), Sutton Coldfield Belfry Hotel (3), Hampstead Country Club (5), Cheltenham Spa Lounge (6), London Revolution (8), and Reading University (10). Group hopes also to arrange one major London concert.

FOTHERINGAY'S UK tour opens at Cheltenham Town Hall on September 17. Rest of the dates are: Aberystwyth University of Wales (26), London Royal Albert Hall (October 2), Southampton University (17), Leicester University (24), University of London (November 7), Birmingham Town Hall (13), Newcastle City Hall (14), Sheffield University (20), Manchester Free Trade Hall (21), Brunel University (27), Bradford University (28), and Oxford Town Hall (December 1).

INCREDIBLE STRING BAND open at Sheffield City Hall on October 7 and then play Kent Keynes College (8), Brighton Dome (10), Croydon Fairfield Hall (11), Glasgow Civic Hall (16), Edinburgh Usher Hall (18), London Royal Albert Hall (20), Nottingham Albert Hall (21), Oxford Town Hall (22), Lancaster University (23), Manchester Free Trade Hall (24), Bristol Colston Hall (26), Liverpool Philharmonic Hall (28), Leeds City Hall (29), Newcastle City Hall (30) and Birmingham Town Hall (31).

FAIRPORT CONVENTION dates are: Nottingham University (October 3), Bradford University (6), London Albert Hall (7), Portsmouth Guildhall (9), Manchester Free Trade Hall (10), Leeds City Hall (14), Sheffield Oval Hall (16), Cardiff Sophia Gardens (17), Birmingham Town Hall (19), Brighton Dome (21), Hull City Hall (23), Liverpool Philharmonic (24), Newcastle Civic Hall (25), Glasgow City Hall (30), Edinburgh Usher Hall (November 1), Portsmouth Polytechnic (4), Cambridge Rex Cinema (5), Bristol Colston Hall (7), Leicester De Montfort Hall (8), Oxford Town Hall (9), Canterbury Rutherford College (13), Brunel University (14) and Croydon Fairfield Hall (15).

FOUR TOPS' final dates for their October British tour have now been settled. Tops, who will be backed by their own four-piece rhythm section and eight British brass men, now play Bristol Colston Hall (October 1) and Gloucester ABC (8). Tops also play three days in Italy from September 23-25.

● And British club and college tour by Love and Alice Cooper, originally set for late September, has now been postponed until early November. Groups play 18 days in Britain and Europe from November 2.

In the USSR

CHRISTIE may play concerts in Russia. Group flies to Poland today (Thursday) for a guest appearance at the Sopot festival. Their next tour will be seen throughout Iron

Bee Gees stage a comeback!



BEE GEES ARE BACK! Gibb brothers (left to right, top) Robin, Barry and Maurice have resolved their squabbles and are about to write, record and perform together again. And COLIN PETERSEN, once the group's drummer, presents HUMPY BONG (left to right, below) Jonathan Kelly, Colin Petersen and Tim Staffell.



... AND PETERSEN PRESENTS HUMPY BONG

BEE GEE brothers Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb have NOT re-formed. Not officially, that is!

Impresario Vic Lewis, who handles Robin's solo career, told Disc: "I'm still negotiating about Robin re-joining his brothers. He's still under contract as a solo artist. However, I don't see any reason why we shouldn't reach agreement by which Robin can work both with them

and solo."

News that the Bee Gees were to re-form was revealed exclusively in Disc as long ago as last May. And last week manager Robert Stigwood—whose company went public on the London Stock Exchange—confirmed that the Gibbs have settled their differences and are to record again.

This week a bill-topping UK and Continental concert tour for the group was being arranged. The brothers would appear backed by a session drummer. There are no plans for a permanent backing group.

A spokesman told Disc: "Studio

North Sea—fifth change

RADIO North Sea this week completed its fifth change of frequency and is now ever-hopeful of staying on the air permanently.

North Sea's transmissions on medium wave broke down on Thursday evening when a giant valve blew out. A replacement was flown in from New York and the station was back on the air on Sunday on the new frequency of 220 metres, medium wave, at full power of 100,000 watts.

Station director Larry Tremaine is still looking for two further DJs for North Sea but told Disc confidently on Monday: "We're on the air for evermore."

RADIO GERONIMO have scooped exclusive shows for Joe Cocker, the Band, and U.S. new group Voices of East Harlem this week. Tomorrow (Friday) the station previews tracks from the new Band album "Stage Fright" and first airing of the debut LP by Voices of East Harlem. On Saturday (29) there's a Joe Cocker "special" including a preview of his LP "Mad Dogs And Englishmen." Show will also trace Joe's musical career.

ELP album in October

EMERSON, Lake and Palmer's first LP is set for October release on Island. The label was chosen by the group from numerous offers, including the Rolling Stones' new and as yet untitled, label.